

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK 772

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4256

MANILA FOR USADB

PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJECT: STATUS OF UN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. KBAUL 4167; B. KABUL 4109

1. ON MAY 21, HEDAYATULLAH AKRAM, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.N. AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (DIRECTOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI WAS THEN ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT HAVANA), TOLD ARTHUR N. HOLCOMBE, UNDP'S RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AD INTERIM, AND FRITZ LOEBUS, THE UNDP ASSISTANT RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WHO OVERSEES NARCOTICS MATTERS, THAT:

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A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) DOES WANT THE UN NARCOTICS TEAM TO CONTINUE ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS HERE ON A ONE-YEAR, RENEWABLE CONTRACT BASIS.

B. THE TERMS OF THE PRESENT CONTRACT WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN IT COMES UP FOR RENEGOTIATION BEFORE ITS EXPIRATION

ON JANUARY 8, 1979.

C. ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT SENIOR U.N. NARCOTICS ADVISOR, WEST GERMAN POLICE CAPTAIN CHRISTIAN MAGNUSSEN, HAS DONE "GOOD" WORK HERE, HE SHOULD BE REPLACED, NOW THAT HIS CONTRACT HAS EXPIRED. THIS WAS UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR MAGNUSSEN (REFTELS), WHO NOW PLANS TO DEPART AFGHANISTAN "NO LATER THAN JUNE 15." AKRAM ADDED THAT THE DRA WOULD NOW PREFER A NARCOTICS EXPERT FROM A NON-ALIGNED SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRY AS SENIOR ADVISOR (THE AFGHANS CLAIM THAT THIS HAD BEEN THEIR SPECIFIED PREFERENCE WHEN THEY INITIALLY AGREED TO A UN PROGRAM HERE, BUT THAT GENEVA HAD SENT A GERMAN INSTEAD).

D. AS FOR MAGNUSSEN'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANT, WEST GERMAN POLICE SERGEANT HEINZ KLEIST, AKRAM SAID THAT HE COULD STAY UNTIL HIS CONTRACT EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 30 OF THIS YEAR, AT WHICH TIME THERE MIGHT BE A "POSSIBILITY" THAT IT WILL BE RENEWED. (LOCAL GERMAN DIPLOMATS THINK KLEIST'S CONTRACT WILL NOT BE RENEWED, HOWEVER).

2. MAGNUSSEN RECENTLY RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM MICHAEL DAVIES OF UNDND TO COMMENT ON THE LATTER'S PROPOSAL THAT A REGIONAL NARCOTICS ADVISOR (RNA) POSITION BE ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE UNDND OPERATIONS IN TURKEY, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN. DAVIES HAD PROPOSED THAT
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THIS MAN BE BASED IN TEHRAN. MAGNUSSEN IS TELLING DAVIES THAT THE RNA IDEA IS GOOD, BUT THAT BASING HIM IN ONE OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES WOULD INHIBIT HIS OPERATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY IN THE OTHERS. MAGNUSSEN THINKS THE RNA SHOULD BE BASED IN GENEVA. AS HIS OWN PERSONAL CONTRACT WITH THE UN HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR ANOTHER YEAR, MAGNUSSEN HOPES TO GET THIS JOB HIMSELF. IN VIEW OF HIS FIELD EXPERIENCE IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, HE MIGHT NOT BE A BAD CHOICE -- PROVIDED THAT HE INDEED REMAINS PERSONA GRATA WITH THE AFGHANS.

3. HOLCOMBE IS SEEKING AN EARLY MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER NOOR AHMAD NOOR TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL THE FUTURE OF THE UN'S ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS HERE.
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